

## REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MAX D. WALKER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
35 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.  
QUINCY, FLORIDA

February 22, 2022

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was open to the public and electronically recorded.

The following Board members were present: Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman, Mr. Steve Scott, Ms. Cathy S. Johnson, Mrs. Karema D. Dudley, and Mr. Charlie D. Frost. Also present were Mr. Elijah Key, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board; Mrs. Deborah Minnis, Attorney for the Board; and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Leroy McMillan, at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Elder Nathaniel Trumpet, Jr., Pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Key recognized the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for submitting the district's share, \$10,788.80, of the Lake Talquin State Forest receipts for fiscal year 2020 – 2021 in accordance with Section 589, Florida Statutes.

Mr. Scott recognized the Havana Magnet School administration for a great job on their data wall. He stated that he toured the campus.

Mrs. Dudley stated that she visited Gadsden County High School and their data wall was great. She stated that she was very pleased with the school visit. She recognized Master Sergeant Roberts for his work with district.

Mr. Key stated that Gadsden County High School Boys Basketball Team season ended last week. He stated that Crossroad will be playing in the semi-finals tonight (February 22<sup>nd</sup>).

Mr. McMillan recognized Dr. Kimblin NeSmith, County Commissioner for District 3 and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Mr. Frost stated that he wanted to ensure that student incident coding was correct.

Ms. Johnson recognized the Administrative staff at Havana Magnet School. She stated that she visited their data room which was great. She stated that goals should be measureable for students. She inquired about teacher certification.

Ms. Ella Mae Daniels stated that an online system has been created to keep track of teacher certification. She stated that there is support for teachers. She stated that approximately 150 teachers are on temporary certificate. She stated that the district is challenged with a high teacher turnover rate. She stated that interns are being used for ESE School Psychologist.

Ms. Johnson stated that she is serious about moving the district forward. She stated that people should be held accountable. She stated that a workshop was needed to discuss the district's strategic plan.

Mr. Frost requested Ms. Johnson head the workshop when discussing the strategic plan.

Mr. Key stated that the strategic plan will address all issues for students and staff. He stated that teacher attendance is an issue. He stated that employees are not coming to work. He stated that work needed to begin on the strategic plan.

Ms. Dudley stated that she had the opportunity to attend the Legislature Day by the Florida School Boards Association. She stated that the State is trying to dismantle public education. She stated that everyone must work together. She stated that more accountability is needed. She stated that the Board need to work with the municipalities to form a partnership. She stated that she was excited about the direction in which the district is moving. She stated that support from the community is needed. She stated that she want to see Gadsden County School District go higher. She stated that students are a priority for her.

Mr. McMillan stated that a partnership is needed from the municipalities and the community. He stated that the Board should not build a new school by themselves. He stated that he want students to graduate and be successful.

Mr. Frost stated that a message was needed to send to parents encouraging them to send their students to school and check on them.

#### ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. McMillan entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Charlie D. Frost, seconded by Mr. Steve Scott and carried unanimously.

#### 5. REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a. January 25, 2022, 4:30 p.m. – School Board Workshop
- b. January 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

#### 6. PERSONNEL MATTERS (resignations, retirements, recommendations, leaves of absence, terminations of services, volunteers, and job descriptions)

- a. Personnel 2021 – 2022

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

- b. 2022 – 2023 School Year Calendars

Fund Source: N/A  
Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

7. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT/PROJECT APPLICATIONS

a. TCC Early College Program Agreement

Fund Source: N/A

Amount: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: The Superintendent recommended approval.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8. EDUCATIONAL ITEMS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

None.

9. SCHOOL BOARD REQUESTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. McMillan reminded the Board of the Employee Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m., and a Special Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Master Sergeant Charlie Roberts, Jr., ROTC Instructor at Gadsden County High School, and First Sergeant Stubbs addressed the Board to request a salary increase. Master Sergeant Roberts stated that Retired Cadets are dedicated but the issue is low salary on the district's end. He stated that he want the salary to be competitive. He requested a salary increase.

Mr. McMillan thanked Master Sergeant Roberts for coming to the Board to address the salary issue.

Mr. Key stated that he appreciates Master Sergeant Roberts for being a hard worker. He stated that he wanted to ensure that the ROTC program was on the school campus.

Ms. Lila Price a parent of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at Chattahoochee Elementary School addressed the Board in regards to her son's education. She stated that her son has autism and was without a teacher for a while. She stated that her son maybe failing. She stated that there are limitations from the school for her son. She suggested he be put in Access Point. She requested a plan to assist her son in receiving his education.

Mr. Key stated that the district has to follow State guidelines. He stated that the district is seeking to bring in retired teachers to assist with students. He stated that he will speak with the principal to put interventions in place to help students.

Mr. McMillan appreciated Ms. Price and thanked her for addressing the Board.

Ms. Tiesha Moore, sister of Lila Price, addressed the Board. She stated that she appreciates Gadsden County. She stated that her son is 4 years old and was not able to attend VPK because of availability. She stated that she is unsure of whether or not her son will attend school in the district after witnessing what her nephew is going through. She stated that she love Gadsden County and would like for her son to attend school in the county.

Mr. Key stated that there has been a change in the teacher's pay. She stated that the district is hoping to recruit people that live in the county return to work in the county.

Mrs. Dudley stated that Leon County has Gadsden County teachers. He stated that there are challenges in Leon County as well as Gadsden.

Mr. McMillan invited Ms. Moore and Ms. Price to join the School Advisory Council Committee at Chattahoochee Elementary School.

Dr. Kimblin NeSmith addressed the Board to thanked Ms. Moore and Ms. Price for attending the meeting. He stated that the County Commissioners stand ready to partner with the School Board in any capacity. He stated that he is passionate about Gadsden County Schools. He stated that there are a lot of resources to help the school district. He stated that the commissioners have to work together to uplift the school district in order to have businesses come to the county.

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

The Board convened in an executive session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining issues; and adjourned at 8:00 p.m.